

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing instruction of a target language to one or more students whose native language is different from the target language, said method comprising the step of presenting dramatic interactions between at least two teacher-actors, wherein each dramatic interaction:

includes pre-scripted dialog primarily in the target language between the at least two teacher-actors, the pre-scripted dialog involving delivery of a plurality of preselected target language items; and

includes embellishments to the pre-scripted dialog, the embellishments being adapted to facilitate comprehension of the plurality of preselected target language items on the part of the one or more students;

wherein the pre-scripted dialog and embellishments thereto are configured for recreating a learning environment akin to childhood first language acquisition.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the embellishments comprise at least one of the following associated with the preselected target language items:

tangible props to be manipulated by at least one teacher-actor or student;

tangible props to be referred to by at least one teacher-actor or student;

visual depictions;

sound effects;

repetition;

exaggerated gesturing; and

exaggerated intonation.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the embellishments comprise extra-linguistic clues.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said target language items comprise vocabulary items.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said target language items comprise between about 10 and about 20 lexemes.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the lexemes are selected from at least one set of high frequency lexemes.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the lexemes are graded in accordance with an instructional level intended for the one or more students.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of target language items have previously not been taught to the one or more students.

9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the dramatic interactions comprise a play and at least one skit.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the play involves a plot or story line for enhancing student retention and recall of the at least one target language item.

11. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the play comprises a plurality of segments each associated with at least one target language item.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein each of the segments is associated with between about one and about five target language items

13. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one skit comprises limited dialog, the limited dialog comprising sentences involving the repetition of at least one target language item in the sentences.

14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein the limited dialog is configured for student participation, whereby the resultant direct, personal experience enhances student retention and recall.

15. The method according to Claim 9, wherein each skit is associated solely with one target language item.

16. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the play and at least one skit are related via at least one target language item.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein each skit is related to the play via at least one target language item.

18. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the at least one skit comprises a plurality of skits, further wherein

said skits in sum involve all target language items from the play.

19. The method according to Claim 1, wherein dialog between the teacher-actors in each dramatic interaction is exclusively in the target language.

20. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the delivery of target language items avoids the conscious teaching of grammar.

21. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said presenting step comprises the at least two teacher-actors presenting the dramatic interactions live.

22. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said presenting step comprises presenting the dramatic interactions via a multimedia arrangement.

23. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a videocassette.

24. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a DVD.

25. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a video compact disc.

26. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a film.

27. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a television broadcast.

28. The method according to Claim 22, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via a computer.

29. The method according to Claim 28, wherein the dramatic interactions are presented via the internet.

30. A multimedia arrangement for providing instruction of a target language to one or more students whose native language is different from the target language, said multimedia arrangement comprising an arrangement for presenting dramatic interactions between at least two teacher-actors, wherein each dramatic interaction:

includes pre-scripted dialog primarily in the target language between the at least two teacher-actors, the pre-scripted dialog involving delivery of a plurality of preselected target language items; and

includes embellishments to the pre-scripted dialog, the embellishments being adapted to facilitate comprehension of the plurality of preselected target language items on the part of the one or more students;

wherein the pre-scripted dialog and embellishments thereto are configured for recreating a learning environment akin to childhood first language acquisition.